

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-34 (Canceled)

35. (New) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a first substrate, a second substrate, and a vertical alignment type liquid crystal layer provided between the first substrate and the second substrate; and

a plurality of picture element regions each defined by at least a first electrode supported by the first substrate and a second electrode supported by the second substrate so as to oppose the first electrode via the liquid crystal layer, wherein:

the first electrode includes a plurality of unit solid portions; and

the second substrate includes an orientation-regulating structure in a region corresponding to at least one unit solid portion among the plurality of unit solid portions, the orientation-regulating structure exerting an orientation-regulating force for orienting liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer on the at least one unit solid portion into a radially-inclined orientation at least in the presence of an applied voltage.

36. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein a shape of each of the plurality of unit solid portions has rotational symmetry.

37. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of unit solid portions is in a substantially circular shape.

38. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of unit solid portions is in a substantially rectangular shape.

39. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of unit solid portions has a shape with an acute angle corner.

40. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the plurality of unit solid portions are arranged so as to have rotational symmetry.

41. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the first electrodes includes at least one opening.

42. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 41, wherein the at least one opening includes a plurality of openings having substantially the same shape and substantially the same size, and at least some of the plurality of openings form at least one unit lattice arranged so as to have rotational symmetry.

43. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 42, wherein a shape of each of the at least some of the plurality of openings has rotational symmetry.

44. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure is provided in a region corresponding to a vicinity of a center of the at least one unit solid portion.

45. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure is provided in a region corresponding to each of the plurality of unit solid portions.

46. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure exerts an orientation-regulating force for orienting the liquid crystal molecules into a radially-inclined orientation even in the absence of an applied voltage.

47. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure is a protrusion protruding from the second substrate into the liquid crystal layer.

48. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 47, wherein a thickness of the liquid crystal layer is defined by the protrusion protruding from the second substrate into the liquid crystal layer.

49. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 48, wherein the protrusion includes a side surface at an angle less than 90^0 with respect to a substrate plane of the second substrate.

50. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure includes a surface having a horizontal alignment power provided on one side of the second substrate that is closer to the liquid crystal layer.

51. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure exerts an orientation-regulating force for orienting the liquid crystal molecules into a radially-inclined orientation only in the presence of an applied voltage.

52. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein the orientation-regulating structure includes an opening provided in the second electrode.

53. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode, an inclined electric field is

produced along a periphery of each of the plurality of unit solid portions, the inclined electric field and the orientation-regulating structure cooperatively orient the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer on the at least one unit solid portion into a radially-inclined orientation.

54. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 53, wherein in the liquid crystal layer on the at least one unit solid portion, a direction of orientation regulation by the inclined electric field coincides with a direction of orientation regulation by the orientation-regulating structure.

55. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of picture element regions includes a transmission region producing a display in a transmission mode and a reflection region producing a display in a reflection mode.

56. (New) The liquid crystal display device of claim 55, wherein the first electrode or the second electrode includes a transparent electrode defining the transmission region and a reflection electrode defining the reflection region.